

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 CEQ-01 INT-05 NSC-05
ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CG-00 CIAE-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02
DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
L-03 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AF-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 /189 R

DRAFTED BY OES/OFA/OCA:JKBARNES:LS
APPROVED BY OES:JDNEGROPONTE, ACTING
NOAA:WARON
CEQ:LTALBOT
INTERIOR:JALVAREZ
WHITE HOUSE:WDELLER
MARINE MAMMAL COM:REISENBUD

-----061789 030130Z /70

P 022212Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140409

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: EFIS, SENV, IWC-1

SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR 30TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNA-
TIONAL WHALING COMMISSION, JUNE 26 - 30, LONDON

1. WE HAVE RECENTLY RECEIVED SUBJECT AGENDA AND NOTE THAT
PANAMA HAS PLACED ON THE AGENDA TWO PROPOSALS RELATING
TO A MORATORIUM ON WHALING--(1) 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON
PELAGIC WHALING AND, (2) 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON ALL NON-
PELAGIC WHALING, EXCLUDING ABORIGINAL WHALING FOR
SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES. TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE TWO PROPOSALS
ARE EQUIVALENT TO A 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL
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WHALING WHICH THE U.S. HAS SUPPORTED SINCE 1972.

2. USG IS CONCERNED THAT THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN
PLACED ON IWC AGENDA AT A TIME WHEN VOTE WOULD LIKELY
BE HEAVILY AGAINST THE MORATORIUM. SUCH A LOSS COULD
ADVERSELY IMPACT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MORATORIUM AS A
BEHIND-THE-SCENES LEVER, THREAT OF WHICH CAN BE USED TO

GAIN STRONG CONSERVATION MEASURES AND LIMITED QUOTAS UNDER THE PRESENT NEW MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE. SERIOUS DEFEAT COULD BE EMBARRASSING TO PROPOSALS' PROPONENTS AND MIGHT IMPACT ON ABILITY OF PANAMA AND U.S. TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR OTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES DURING THIS MEETING OF IWC.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S SOLICITING GOP REACTIONS TO FOREGOING POINTS AND ANY ADDITIONAL INSIGHTS PANAMANIAN'S MIGHT BE ABLE TO OFFER AS TO THEIR STRATEGY IN PROPOSING THAT MORATORIUM BE PUT TO VOTE AT THIS TIME, INCLUDING HOW TO DEAL WITH POSSIBLE IMPACT ON OTHER CRITICAL CONSERVATION ISSUES WITHIN COMMISSION OF LOSING VOTE ON MORATORIUM PROPOSALS. USG SHARES THEIR SUPPORT OF 10-YEAR MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING AND EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE USG APPRECIATION OF GOP SUPPORT OF STRONG CONSERVATION MEASURES. THEREFORE, WE WANT TO COOPERATE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE WITH GOP IN PURSUING OUR MUTUAL OVERALL GOAL OF STRENGTHENING IWC WHALE PROTECTION MEASURES AND WANT TO BE CERTAIN WE HAVE FULLEST POSSIBLE APPRECIATION OF THEIR CURRENT THINKING.
CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, WHALING, COMMISSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE140409
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKBARNES:LS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0199
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806100/aaaadioc.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 221e077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2138232
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGENDA FOR 30TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION, JUNE 26 - 30, LONDON
TAGS: EFIS, SENV, PN, IWC-1
To: PANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/221e077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014